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A-11 Raises Questions On Secret Fund Outlays

By the Associated Press

Complaints that defense and space officials may be secretly spending millions of dollars without knowledge of Congress and taxpayers have come from Senators Hugh Scott, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Gordon Allott, Republican of Colorado.

They cited as evidence President Johnson's surprise announcement that a costly new military aircraft—the 2,000 mile an hour A-11—had been developed secretly.

"It was indeed a shock to me," Senator Allott said yesterday of the presidential announcement, when asked about it by Senator Scott on a taped radio program.

Member of Committee

Senator Allott is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee which must pass upon details of the multibillion-dollar annual spending on both defense and space programs and projects.

Senator Allott said that al-

though he had followed all available details closely for more than four years, "not one word" was said about the speedy new aircraft until the President removed secrecy wraps.

Senator Allott said development of the A-11 "perhaps cost \$50 or \$100 million or maybe more" and this raises questions on how defense officials could "hide this much money" in their budget from Senators who are required to approve such spending.

Some on Committee Informed

The Colorado Senator said he since has learned "about four members" of the 27-member Appropriations Committee knew of the project, adding:

"But how can the rest of the committee be led to act upon a budget which hides so much money?"

Senator Allott noted this development came during the same period that Secretary of Defense McNamara and Congress were sharply divided over development of a large jet aircraft—the B-70 or RS-70—for the Air Force.

If Senate and House Members had known about the A-11 aircraft project, Senator Scott said that results of the other dispute might have been different.